

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

CONFIDENTIAL
REPORT

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
File No. 5860
S. B. REGISTRY.
Man. Branch, 5
Date 4. 1. 34

Subject (in full) Japanese views regarding the informal statement made by a spokesman of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Made by D. S. Umemoto. Forwarded by

SBK. S.I.

In accordance with the instructions of the Officer i/c Special Branch, I have to state that the consensus of opinion of the local Japanese community regarding the informal statement made by a spokesman of the Foreign Office is that the statement contains nothing but facts as to conditions in the Far East and that the furore had been caused through misunderstanding by foreign Powers of the real intentions of Japan. The issue will probably be settled when the foreign Powers view the matter in its true perspective.

The comments made by Japanese papers well represent the views of the Japanese public who strongly support the policy of the Japanese Government towards China as has been announced in the statement.

I forward herewith a translation of comments made by the "Shanghai Nippo" and the "Shanghai Mainichi".

D. S. Umemoto.

D. S.

Officer i/c Special Branch.

Local Japs. Official circles decline to discuss the matter. D.S.

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Shanghai Nippo, April 28, 1934.

The publication of an informal statement by the Foreign Office regarding Japanese policy towards China has become the topic of conversation throughout the world. Certain people strained the meaning purposely to make use of it in their propaganda against Japan. A section of Chinese have tried to take the opportunity to submit the Sino-Japanese issue for discussion before an international conference but their efforts have ended in complete failure.

In view of the tendency by foreign Powers to prey upon China under the pretext of assistance or co-operation, Japan had simply issued a warning in consideration of her position. It is obvious that Japan does not oppose the Open Door policy and Equal Opportunity in China and there was no intention to secure privileged treatment for herself. During the past few years, instead of receiving privileged treatment Japan has been faced with the policy of closed door. The Chinese Government did not adopt any measures to suppress the illegal anti-Japanese movement and boycott of Japanese goods saying that they could not suppress the voluntary movements of the masses. It is clear that the policy of the Chinese Government has brought about unequal opportunity towards Japan. Japan desires more than the foreign Powers for an Open Door policy and Equal Opportunity.

If the assistance by the Powers and investment of foreign capital in China can bring about prosperity, why should Japan interfere. The informal statement contained nothing about assistance and investment of capital by foreign Powers with good intention.

Regarding the question of the Nine Power Treaty, Japan has no intention to violate it. The fact has clearly been explained in the second statement issued by the Foreign Office. It is ridiculous for China to agitate for a meeting of the

nine treaty Powers to discuss the Far Eastern problem.

The informal statement made by Japan seems now to be better understood by the Powers as their excitement has subsided.

Shanghai Mainichi, April 28, 1934.

The London Times of April 26 stated that Japan's political and economical position in China should be recognized and that it was a matter of course for Japan to demand the leading position in the matter of international co-operation in China. Japan, however, should co-operate with the foreign Powers to attain this object instead of disputing with them.

The co-operation in China by the foreign Powers as indicated by the Times, and Japan's co-operation based upon the maintenance of peace in the Far East do not coincide. This difference in the fundamental idea of co-operation should be clearly understood by us. A certain person playing an important role in the formulation of American policy in the Far East holds the view that the military development of China will be a guarantee for the maintenance of peace in the Far East. This statement, when closely examined, reveals one of the erroneous ideas expected from co-operation in China.

What has co-operation done for China? It has served to induce war instead of preventing it and to intensify enmity rather than to foster friendship, confidence and co-operation for the prosperity and peace of the Orient. And all this has been brought about by the Chinese policy of relying on others - a policy which had originated from such co-operation. Co-operation between China and Soviet Russia resulted in the activities of the Chinese Communist Party and several provinces have been devastated. The purpose of Japanese co-operation

is entirely different from this selfish policy. For the sake of peace in the Orient, Japan has clearly discerned between the two kinds of co-operation in China and this should be gratefully recognized by China.

Shanghai Nippo, April 27, 1934.

The erroneous impression created abroad by the recent pronouncement has been modified and America and various European nations are adopting a very careful attitude. They have recovered from the excitement and are endeavouring to study the real intentions and the position of Japan. The inquiry by the British Government to the Japanese Foreign Minister was considered mild, to the disappointment of a certain section of Chinese. The United States, it is believed, will adopt an attitude of moderation. All these Powers emphasize their right to have a voice in matters relating to China and the protection of their treaty rights. They are not adopting a firm attitude owing to the fact that the informal statement contained nothing but facts as to conditions in the Far East. Certain Chinese have tried to make use of the opportunity to secure the assistance of foreign Powers but their efforts have ended in complete failure. The real intentions of Japan have been clearly explained in the subsequent statement. Japan does not intend to deviate from her policy of Open Door and Equal Opportunity in China. It was a misunderstanding of Japan's intentions that had caused the excitement. It is also obvious that anti-Japanese agitation has been introduced to suppress Japan's policy towards China. When the furore has subsided, the foreign Powers will view the issue in its true perspective. Japan's position will then be better understood. It is useless to become indignant and make pessimistic statements for they would only cause our nationals to be over-concerned about the matter.

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I should like
D S Unemoto to compile
a report giving indication
of the reaction by
Japanese officialdom &
community to the recent
utterances from Tokyo
in the matter of intervention
with China by the various
Foreign Powers

JR

D.S. Unemoto, SSR 3/4.